

26/10/17
THE

Devonshire WOMAN;

Or, A Wonderful

NARRATIVE

OF

FRANCES FLOOD.

SHEWING

How She was taken by the Small-Pox in the Street of Saltford, near Bath; in the Year 1723; and having no place of Abode, being a Stranger, she got to a Barn in the said Town, where her Legs broke short off in the small, and was healed without the help of Physician or Surgeon.

Licens'd and Enter'd according to Order.

READING:

Printed for Frances Flood, and Sold by
No body but Herself.

N. B. The new Artificial Leg was
made by John Earley, White-Smith, in
Winchester.

Handwritten: cited



The Devonshire Wonder.

I Frances Flood, was born at *Gitson*, near *Honiton* in *Devonshire*; and on the 22d of *January* 1723, (being 32 Years of Age) I went from *Philips Norton* to the Town of *Saltford*, and lodg'd at an Inn that Night; the next Morning, thinking to go about my business, but coming out of the Door, I was taken very ill, and before I came to the Village, was not sensible in what condition I was in, and not able to go, was forced to hold by the Wall as I went along. With great difficulty I got to the Overseer's-house, and desired him to get me Lodging, but he denied me; upon which I went up the Street and lay in a Hog-sty, where many People came to see me. I lay there till the Evening in a sad Condition, when the Owner's Wife of that place led me to the Overseer's again, but he still denied me relief; and I, not being very sensible returned again to the same place, but they had been so inhuman as to put some Dung into it, to prevent my Lodging there again; but at last I got into another that had no cover over it, the other had. In the Morning when I awak'd I went into the Street, and with weakness fell down so that the streams of Water

Water run over me, till I was help'd up by the Clerk of the Parish's Wife, who led me till I came to the Wall by which I held, and with great trouble got to a Barn and a Stranger let me in, but the Owner of the Barn, was so barbarous as to unhang the Door the next day; a young man out of Compassion hung the door again, the Farmer was so displeased, that he came a second time and unhung it.

The next day the Small Pox appeared on me, and was noised about, insomuch that the Overseer came and put up the door and then I had both Meat and drink but took no further care of me for 14 Days; the Small pox appeared very kind and favourable, and might have done very well had I not been taken in my Legs, and should have been able to have gone away in a Fortnight, after which I was taken in my Calves, which turned black and cold, and looked much like Scalds, and broke out. I applied to them first a Bath, but the Flesh of the small of my Legs speedily parted from the Bones. I had then by me some Ointment which was brought me by the Overseer, but had no one to help me dress my Wounds, but did all my self.

I freely forgive all the parish, and as for the Overseers, they did to the utmost of their power, when my Flesh was separated; and whatever I desired of them they

they sent me, so I desire that all may be blameless of my Misfortunes. My pains increased to a wonderful degree, and my Legs grew worse, and I was driven to dismal extremity and lay in that Condition three Weeks.

On the 18th Day of *March* about eight of the clock in the Evening there came a Woman to the Barn door to ask me how I did, I was going to shew her how my Legs were, the Flesh was then separated from the Bones, and leaning a little harder than ordinary upon my left Leg it broke off as though it were a rotten stick, a little below the Calf: the Woman left me, and I was surpriz'd, but God enabled me to bind up my Leg with the same medicines as before; and when most of the people of the Village were at rest, then a Man that lived over against the Barn came to see me, and ask'd me how I did; I desired him to get me some Beer at the Overseers, but he fetch'd me some of his own and left me, so there was no one with me, I submitted my self to God, and after some time fell asleep and slept till the next Morning, and as soon as 'twas Light dress'd the wound, before any body came to me, and the Flesh covered the Bone, but had no loss of Marrow, and but little of Blood, nor hardly any pain, the mercies then received at the hands of God, exceeded

ed all the punishment that was due to me through Sin, and his Mercy I never did deserve, I was visited by abundance of people, and amongst them God sent me the Minister of *Keinsbam*, Mr. *Brown* of the same Town came along with him, and afforded me much comfort; they told me they never saw the like, and it was God's handy work, and not Man's, so taking their leave of me they wish'd that the God of Heaven might be my Physician, and it gave both a merry Heart and a cheerful Countenance, and gave them thanks for what Favours I had received from them, and my pains then ceased. Abundance came both far and near all the Week to see me; and on Sunday I had scores of People to visit me, and amongst the rest a Surgeon, who perswaded me to have the Bone of my right Leg taken off, to which I gave consent. On the 25th, about 6 in the morning, when I arose and opened the Cloaths I found my Leg was fallen from me, and the pains I then suffered were not worthy to be called pains, so I drest it with the same medicine I had made use of before: within two hours after came several people to visit me. I unbound the cloaths and the Flesh was closed over the Bone, and the blood was stop'd, so I had great reason to praise the Lord for all his mercies and favours I had received from time to time.

The

*The Epitaph in Saltford Church-yard, where
the Legs were buried.*

STOP Reader, and a Wonder see,
As strange as e'er was known,
My Feet drop'd off from my Body,
In the middle of the Bone.
I had no Surgeon for my help,
But God Almighty's Aid,
In whom I ever will rely,
And never be afraid.
Tho' here beneath they lie,
Corruption for to see,
Yet they shall one day re-unite,
To all Eternity.

THE PRAYER.

*Hosea vi. 1. Come and turn unto the Lord,
for he hath torn and will heal us, he hath
smitten and will bind us up.*

O Most gracious God and loving Father,
which givest health to make me the
better acknowledge thee and thy Libera-
lity towards me; and sometimes sendest
sickness to recall me to amendment when I
have sinned against thee, I thy humble
servant, for this and thy servants thus af-
flicted, do humbly beseech thee, not to
enter into a severe Judgment with me for
my

my life and Condition, but in remembrance of my own Mercies, to forgive me my Sins, and on the satisfaction of thy Son for to acquit me of thy Judgments. O Lord, grant me a true zeal of thy holy Name, and all affections agreeable to thy blessed Will, that I may rightly receive the gracious offers of thy Mercy: qualify Lord, all these troubles, that either the grievousness of my sins remembred, or the bitterness of my pangs sustain'd, thro the Subtilty of the common enemy, or the fear of Death should bring upon me, and lay no more upon me, O Lord than I am able to bear. speak comfortably unto me, as thou dost unto all those who seek comfort in the like tribulation. Dispose and move my heart, to receive this thy fatherly correction, gracious visitation with the Patience of *Job*, the Faith of *Abraham*, the Joy of *Paul*, the courage of *Peter*, and a true submission to thy Will for Life or Death: And though these outward Senses, the Tongue and Voice are not so quick as they ought to have been to praise thee; yet Lord, I beseech thee to stir up my heart, inflame and inspire my mind to perform such as thou requirest, as may be profitable for my soul in this extremity Apply o Lord, the holy and wholesome Medicines of thy Son's Passion, Death and Resurrection unto my Soul, against fear, faintness,

faintness, doubt and desperation. Take away the extremity of my pains, mitigate my Sorrows, make my bed, wipe my Tears from mine Eyes, and ease my careful Conscience. Open thine arms to receive me into thy favour, that when the Time is come, I may go into my Grave in Peace, and in the mean time, O Lord, settle thou my Spirits, that they may not wander, or fly out into any unbecoming Motions, continue my remembrance that I may not forget thee, but daily and hourly have thee in my mind, who art the Author of my Safety. Keep my Tongue from all vain and idle talk, mine Heart from all Fears, and protect me safe under thy Wings. Be merciful unto me, who as a seeing Member of one body, adore thy holy Name and implore thy divine help for my self. And let this my Example teach me more humility, fear and reverence towards thee. *Now and ever hear my Prayer, O Lord, for Jesus Christ his Sake. A M E N.*

F I N I S.